WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

International Research to Study Climate

1332. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRI countries get SOS calls to save climate and India has launched International Research for Scientist to study monsoon, rising sea level and temperature; and

(b) if so, the response for the call given by Government?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Since climate change is a global issue, many countries are having collaborative programs and many institutions from India are also collaborating.

In general, there is shortage of scientists in the country in any field, including monsoon research and climate change, however, this is no SOS.

(b) Does not arise.

Earthquake Information from Meteorological Department

1333. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standard Operational Procedure which has already been made Operational at INCOIS since July, 2005 on a 24X7 basis is consistently receiving earthquake information from Meteorological Department and Japan Meteorological Agency Pacific Tsunami Centre;

(b) if so, whether any analysis of the information received since July, 2005 been made and if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) whether for monitoring potential tsunamigenic earthquakes seismic stations have been established?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information received from India Meteorological Department and other international sources is analysed and validated with real time sea level

data of tide gauges. The effectiveness of monitoring by the Interim system was proved in deterministically concluding that there was no tsunami threat to the Indian coastline due to the last two high magnitude undersea earthquakes in the tsunamigenic zones of Indian Ocean region. Advisories are generated appropriately and information is transmitted to Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) A seismic network already exists for monitoring earthquake in tsunamigenic zones. The system is being upgraded to monitor and transmit real time data to the proposed Tsunami Early warning System at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.

Inadequate processing and cold storage facilities

1334. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country wastes rougly $ 13 billion worth of farm products, including dairy items annually because of inadequate processing and cold storages facilities;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether some major players in the retail sector have made any requests like abolition of Agricultural Produce Marketing Commission Act to speed up growth in food processing industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for reducing the distance between production and processing of food in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by a developed food processing industry, strengthening of the post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.